

Message Text

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16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 EUR-12 SAJ-01 SAM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00

FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01

OMB-01 IO-10 STR-04 /111 W
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R 251924Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3182

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 1293

DEPT PASS TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, EAGR

SUBJECT: SUGAR: LATIN AMERICAN PRODUCERS MEETING AT PERTO PLATA

REF: A. STATE 61168 B. SD 946

1. PARA 8 REF A RECOGNIZES THE LIKELIHOOD THAT SOME INDIVIDUAL PRODUCERS DELEGATIONS WILL MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENTS FOR HOME CONSUMPTION RE DEFENSE OF SUGAR PRICE LEVELS. IT IS REALISTIC, THEREFORE, TO ANTICIPATE THAT AT THE PUERTO PLATA MEETING THERE WILL BE SOME DISCUSSION OF FUTURE SUGAR PRICES AND WHAT IF ANYTHING MIGHT BE DONE ABOUT THEM. ACCORDINGLY, WE PRESUME THAT INTENT OF DEPT'S INSTRUCTIONS IS NOT TO TRY TO PREVENT ANY DISCUSSION OF PRICE MAINTENANCE PROPOSALS BUT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT ANY UNILATERAL ACTION BY PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO ESTABLISH PRICE FIXING MECHANISMS WOULD BE CONTRARY TO THEIR BEST INTERESTS.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, THE PUBLICLY STATED VIEWS OF PRESIDENT BALAGUER ON THE PUERTO PLATA MEETING (REF B) AND ON COMMODITY PRICES IN GENERAL ARE RELEVANT, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE GODR
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IS THE HOST OF THE MEETING. IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS

FEB 27, BALAGUER SAID HE FAVORED A SEARCH FOR MORE EQUITABLE PRICES FOR THE PRODUCTS OF NON-INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN THE FACE OF RISING PRICES OF PETROLEUM AND OTHER IMPORTS BUT HE CAUTIONED THAT NEW PRICE LEVELS SHOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A FURTHER WORSENING OF THE ECONOMIES OF THACONSUMING COUNTRIES AND THAT THE PRICE LEVELS SHOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND EQUITABLE FOR BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMING COUNTRIES. THE DEPT MAY WISH TO REPEAT REF B ON THIS SUBJECT TO RECIPIENTS OF REF A.

3. WE BELIEVE THAT APPROACH MOST LIKELY TO FURTHER INTENT OF DEPT'S INSTRUCTION IS TO SEEK TO DEMONSTRATE (ALONG LINES INDICATED PARA 6 REF A) THAT UNILATERAL ACTION TO ESTABLISH PRICE FIXING MECHANISMS WOULD ILL SERVE THE LONG RANGE INTEREST OF THE PRODUCERS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON SUGAR SUBSTITUTES FURTHER TO THAT PROVIDED IN PARA 5, REF A.
HURWITCH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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